

Message Text

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APPROVED BY SFW/COA W.G.VANCAMPEN

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS SP XP

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR GOS CONSIDERATION TO VOLUNTARY
COOPERATION WITH IATTC YELLOWFIN TUNA CONSERVATION
PROGRAM

COPENHAGEN AND MEXICO CITY FOR REGIONAL FISHERY
ATTACHES

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DRAW TO ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE
GOS OFFICIALS DESIRABILITY OF PARTICIPATION ON VOLUNTARY
COOPERATIVE BASIS IN YELLOWFIN TUNA CONSERVATION PROGRAM OF
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION PENDING COMPLETION
OF PROCESS OF GOS ADHERENCE TO IATTC CONVENTION. THAT PRO-
CESS, WHICH DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN STARTED YET, WILL
TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS AT BEST. OPEN SEASON FOR YELLOWFIN
TUNA FISHING FOR MEMBER COUNTRIES' VESSELS WITHIN COMMIS-
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SION'S REGULATORY AREA WAS CLOSED IN MARCH, AND MEMBERS ARE

REQUIRED TO REGULATE FISHING BY THEIR VESSELS FOR YELLOW-FIN DURING REST OF YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESTRICTIONS RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION. THIS MEANS THAT VESSELS FISHING WITHIN THE REGULATORY AREA MAY NOT RPT NOT LAND YELLOWFIN TUNA IN EXCESS OF 15 PERCENT OF THEIR TOTAL CATCH ON ANY TRIP, UNLESS VESSEL IS OPERATING ON SPECIAL ALLOCATION MADE TO VESSELS OF LESS THAN 400 TONS CAPACITY. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE, THERE ARE FOUR SPANISH

FLAG TUNABOATS OVER THAT SIZE OPERATING IN EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC AT PRESENT (FIFTH HAS BEEN REPORTED BADLY DAMAGED IN ACCIDENT). IF GOS IS LEGALLY IN POSITION TO ISSUE APPROPRIATE TUNA CONSERVATION REGULATIONS COVERING THESE VESSELS PRIOR TO EFFECTIVE ADHERENCE TO IATTC, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT SUCH REGULATIONS IMPOSE 15 PERCENT INCIDENTAL YELLOWFIN CATCH LIMIT ON LANDINGS FOR VESSELS OVER 400 TONS CAPACITY, REQUIRE POSITION REPORTS BY RADIO IF VESSELS FISH OUTSIDE REGULATORY AREA, AND REQUIRE CAPTAINS TO KEEP FULL DETAILED LOG OF FISHING OPERATIONS AND CATCHES. GOS SHOULD ALSO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO INSPECT LANDINGS FOR SPECIES COMPOSITION, MONITOR RADIO POSITION REPORTS AND INSPECT LOGBOOKS. USG WOULD BE HAPPY TO MAKE ITS EXPERIENCE IN REGULATING ITS OWN VESSELS AVAILABLE TO GOS AND TO COOPERATE IN SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.

2. ACTION ALONG SUGGESTED LINES BY GOS IS PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE AT THIS TIME BECAUSE US TUNA FISHERMEN ARE CARRYING ON ACTIVE CAMPAIGN IN PRESS AND WITH CONGRESS TO CALL ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY CONSIDER INEQUITY OF SITUATION IN WHICH THEY ARE STRICTLY REGULATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH IATTC CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS WHILE COMPETING VESSELS OF OTHER NATIONS ARE NOT. THEIR OBJECTIVE APPEARS TO BE EITHER TO FORCE GOVERNMENT TO IMPOSE TRADE SANCTIONS PROVIDED IN US LAW FOR SUCH CASES OR TO SUSPEND US REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN TUNA CONVENTIONS ACT. FORMER WOULD BE UNFAVORABLE FOR OPERATIONS OF SPANISH FLAG TUNABOATS IN EASTERN PACIFIC, AS WE BELIEVE MOST OF THEIR CATCHES ARE BEING TRANSSHIPPED TO TO US CANNERS. LATTER WOULD OF COURSE BE HEAVY BLOW TO HITHERTO SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION PROGRAM OF IATTC AND COULD

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RESULT IN QUICK AND DRASTIC REDUCTION OF YELLOWFIN TUNA STOCKS. DEPARTMENT HAS REPORT THAT TUNA FISHERMEN PLAN SHORTLY TO BRING COURT ACTION AGAINST US GOVERNMENT AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS TO REQUIRE THEM TO SHOW CAUSE WHY AVAILABLE LEGAL REMEDIES HAVE NOT BEEN APPLIED. SUITABLE PROMPT ACTION BY GOS COULD REMOVE CONSIDERABLE STEAM FROM THIS MOVE. RUSH

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